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STAT.

Fulbright Watchdog Request Rejected

Hands Off CIA, Says Russell

Chairman Richard B. Russell, of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has claimed sole authority for congressional peeking under the cloak of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Georgia Democrat's disclosure yesterday sharply defined the battle lines for a vote tomorrow on whether to bring members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee into the handful of congressmen who oversee the CIA's clandestine operations.

Sen. Russell cited the "rules and practices of the Senate" in politely but firmly rejecting the move to broaden congressional CIA watching in a letter to Sen. J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.).

Sen. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has expressed concern over CIA involvement in U.S. foreign policy. One of his group's committee men, Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D., Minn.) sponsored the resolution to enlarge the number of men overseeing CIA.

The Russell position was expected to prompt a jurisdiction fight over the CIA question if and when it reaches the Senate floor.

MORI/CDF